

Moose Safety 101: What Park City Residents & Visitors Need to Know | Swaner EcoCenter

01/27/2026

Moose are a symbol of the mountains and natural spaces that Park City has to offer. They provide excellent wildlife viewing opportunities for locals and visitors alike across the Wasatch Back. However, moose can be incredibly dangerous and it is critical to give them the space they need.

Moose (*Alces alces*), the largest members of the deer family, are an iconic and impressive species in Utah's northern landscapes. In Utah they are represented by the Shiras subspecies (*Alces alces shirasi*), the smallest of the North American moose, but still formidable animals, with adults often weighing 800–1,200lbs and bulls standing about six feet tall at the shoulder. According to Utah's Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah is home to between 2,500 and 3,000 moose. Moose are relatively recent arrivals in Utah's wildlife community. Historical records suggest they were not present in the state before the early 1900s and made their way naturally to the Beehive State.

Where can you spot a moose? The Park City area provides critical stream, forest, and high elevation meadow habitat. Moose are seen occasionally on the Swaner Preserve, where their favorite food, aquatic plants, can be found in the wetlands and woody willows hide mothers and calves. They are seen commonly in high elevation forests such as Guardsman Pass, surrounding ski areas, and residential areas like Summit Park, Park Meadows, and Jeremy Ranch. They can be seen year-round in the Park City area, but are typically in lower elevation areas during winter and in forage areas like the Swaner Preserve and neighboring ski areas in spring and summer. During the fall rut, or breeding season, bull moose may be more visible but can be dangerous to humans. Dawn and dusk are the best time to see moose, as well as many other wildlife species in the area.

While these large herbivores may look harmless, injuries to people or pets by moose are much more common than bears, cougars, and other wildlife. How can you keep yourself, your family, and your pets safe? Follow the tips below next time you spot a moose!

- **Keep your distance:** Never approach, feed, or try to interact with a moose. Give them plenty of space. Binoculars make a great tool for observing wildlife from afar!
- **Watch for warning signs:** A moose that lowers its head, pins back its ears, or raises hair on its neck may be preparing to charge.
- **Control pets:** Moose often view dogs as predators, and dogs running free can trigger aggressive reactions. Keeping dogs leashed and under control is both **safer and required by Utah law**.
- **Stay calm:** If a moose behaves aggressively, back away slowly, avoid running, and seek cover behind a solid object.
- **Report dangerous animals:** If a moose wanders into city limits or heavily populated areas, report it to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources so they can relocate the animal before it injures someone or damages property.

Check out [Wild Aware Utah](#) for more resources on staying safe in moose country. Want to hear more about the folks that manage Utah's moose populations? Tune into the Utah DWR's "Wild" podcast episode [all about moose](#).

Remember: moose aren't aggressive—they're defensive. Respecting their space keeps *everyone* safe, including the moose. Stay alert, stay respectful, and enjoy wild places safely. Want to learn more? **Check out our free "The Moose Next Door" webinar on February 24, 2026 at 6 pm [learn more](#).**

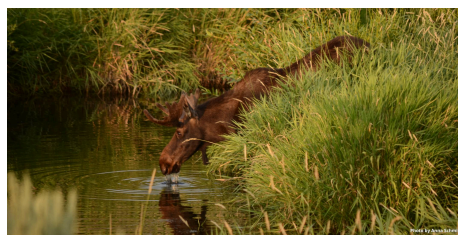


Photo by Anna Schmitz.

```
(function() { document.querySelectorAll('.carousel-control[data-slide="prev"]').forEach(function(prevControl) { prevControl.setAttribute('aria-label', 'Previous'); }); document.querySelectorAll('.carousel-control[data-slide="next"]').forEach(function(nextControl) { nextControl.setAttribute('aria-label', 'Next'); }); document.addEventListener('DOMContentLoaded', function() { // Query all images within the
```

```
fourColumnCarousel inside embed-feed const
images = document.querySelectorAll('.embed-
feed .fourColumnCarousel .img-fluid'); images.forEach(img
=> { // If the image alt attribute is empty or missing,
set it to "Article thumbnail" if (!img.getAttribute('alt') ||
img.getAttribute('alt').trim() === "") { img.setAttribute('alt',
"Article thumbnail"); } }); }); // Closes the IIFE
```

Location, Hours & Contact

Physical & Mailing Address

[1258 Center Drive](#)
[Park City, Utah 84098](#)

EcoCenter Hours

Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

The EcoCenter will be closed on Wednesday, October 7 and Thursday, October 8.

Email

swanerecocenter@usu.edu

Phone

[435-649-1767](tel:435-649-1767)

[Directions, Parking, & Transit View Staff Directory](#)

- [Swaner EcoCenter Facebook page](#)
- [Swaner EcoCenter Instagram page](#)

Events

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="//www.trumba.com/
scripts/spuds.js"></script> <script type="text/javascript">
$Trumba.addSpud({ webName: "extension-swaner-
ecocenter", spudType : "upcomingpreview" , spudConfig :
"SpudConfig2" , teaserBase : "https://extension.usu.edu/
swaner/calendar" }); </script> View Full Swaner Preserve
& EcoCenter Calendar
```